(a) whether the studies by the Central Mining Research Station, Dhanbad to fix inter-relationship of different parameters for achieving higher rate of stowing of sand in the coalmines have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) to (d). The Central Mining Research Station (CMRS), Dhanbad, have informed that they have fabricated a small laboratory model for conducting preliminary scientific study relating to hydraulic sand stowing. The studies are in progress. These studies are to be extended finally for field trails and them only the inter-relationship of different parameters, if any, can be established.

Agreement with Japan

5543. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement have been signed with Japan during the last three years in the filed of electronics ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Government of India, Department of Electronics have not entered into any agreement with the Government of Japan in the field of electronics. However, 35 Indian firms have entered into foreign collaborations with Japanese companies in electronic items viz. Colour Picture Tubes, Audio Tape Deck Mechanism, Digital microwave equipments, electronic switches, Soft/Hard ferrits, floppy disk drives etc.

Accident in Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. Nagothane

5544. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of persons died in an accident which took place in IPCL's new plant at Nagothane, Maharashtra in 1990;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the causes of the accident has since been held; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes Sir. 32 persons died in the accident.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is examining the report submitted by the Enquiry Committee. In the meanwhile an Action Plan is being drawn by for I.P.C.L. to implement the recommendations of the Committee for improvement in process/plant safety and emergency procedures.

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate of Orissa

5545. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial growth rate in Orissa is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the resources provided by the Union Government to the State Government for accelerating the industrial growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) Central Statistical Organisation does not compile State-wise Index of Industrial Production. However, as per the Index of Industrial Production for the country as a whole, the overall rate of growth was 8.5 % during 1990-91. During the current financial year, the figures available upto November, 1991 showed a growth of -0.8% during April-November, 1991 over the corresponding period of last year.

(c) According to the Planning Commission, the plan expenditure in the large and medium industries including mining sector was Rs. 8355 lakhs during 1990-91 in the State of Orissa.

[*English*]

IRDP in Maharashtra

5546. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to Unstarred Question No. 1239 on March 4, 1991 state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned under the IRDP, district-wise during the last three years in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount of subsidy given under the programme, district-wise during each of the last three years in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the families belonging to Sindhu Durg and Ratnagiri districts secured very little benefit; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is a programme for assisting families below the poverty line by giving them loan and subsidy to pursue income generating activities and projects in the normal sense of the term are not sanctioned under this Programme.

(b) The amount of subsidy given under the Programme, district-wise by the Central Government during each of the last three years in Maharashtra is given in the enclosed statement. The state is also expected to give an equal amount to the respective district.

(c) The amount of subsidy under IRDP to the districts in Maharashtra is done on the basis of the number of blocks and the incidence of poverty in the district. There is nothing to infer that Sindhu Durg and Ratnagiri districts have secured lower benefit than their entitlement under this programme.

(d) Does not arise.